Analysis of the National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2024 ? DRAFT

Basic Information

- **Country Name:** Bangladesh

- **Policy Publication Year:** 2024

- **Socio-Economic Context:** Bangladesh is classified as a lower-middle-income country by the World Bank. It has experienced significant economic growth in recent years, primarily driven by the textile and garment industry, remittances, and agriculture. However, challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and infrastructure deficits persist. The government has recognized the need for digital transformation to enhance governance, improve public services, and foster economic growth, leading to the formulation of the National Artificial Intelligence Policy.

- **Policy Type:** National Artificial Intelligence Policy

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1. Key Objectives and Strategies in the Policy

Key Objectives:

- **Establish AI as a driver of economic

growth**: The policy aims to leverage AI to enhance productivity and economic efficiency.
- **Enhance public service delivery**: AI is intended to personalize and improve the accessibility of public services.
- **Promote data-driven decision-making**: The policy emphasizes using AI for analytics across sectors.
- **Develop a skilled workforce**: Education and skills development in AI are prioritized to meet future demands.
- **Foster a culture of research and innovation**: The policy encourages public and private funding for AI research.
- **Ensure ethical AI development**: Establish regulatory measures that uphold human rights in AI applications.

Strategies:
- **Sectoral Focus**: The policy outlines specific sectors for AI integration, including governance, agriculture, healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability.
- **Institutional Framework**: Establishment of the National Artificial Intelligence Center of Excellence for

coordination and monitoring.

- **Legal and Regulatory Framework**: Development of guidelines for ethical AI use, data governance, and intellectual property.

- **Investment and Funding**: Proposals for government and corporate funding to support AI initiatives.

- **Public Awareness and Education**: Campaigns to enhance understanding of AI among citizens.

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2. Comparative Analysis with Socio-Economic Countries

Similar Socio-Economic Countries (e.g., India):

- **Objectives and Strategies**: Both Bangladesh and India emphasize economic growth through AI, focusing on agriculture, healthcare, and education. However, India has a more established framework with specific initiatives like the National AI Portal and extensive public-private partnerships.

- **Priorities and Funding**: India allocates significant funding for AI research and development, while Bangladesh's

funding mechanisms are still being established.

- **Approaches and Implementation**: India?s approach includes a more structured collaboration with academia and industry, whereas Bangladesh is still developing its institutional frameworks.

Higher-Income Countries (e.g., United States):

- **Objectives and Strategies**: The U.S. focuses on advanced AI technologies and ethical governance, with a strong emphasis on innovation ecosystems. Bangladesh?s policy is more foundational, aiming to establish basic AI capabilities.

- **Priorities and Funding**: The U.S. has substantial investment in AI research and innovation, leveraging venture capital and government funding. Bangladesh?s funding is limited and relies heavily on government initiatives.

- **Lessons and Best Practices**: The U.S. model of public-private partnerships and innovation hubs can serve as a benchmark for Bangladesh.

Lower-Income Countries (e.g., Vietnam):

- **Objectives and Strategies**: Vietnam?s
AI strategy emphasizes practical
applications in agriculture and public
services, similar to Bangladesh?s focus.
Vietnam has effectively utilized
international partnerships to enhance its AI
capabilities.

- **Priorities and Funding**: Vietnam
engages in cost-effective approaches to AI
development, which Bangladesh can learn
from, particularly in terms of leveraging
existing resources.

- **Scalable and Sustainable Approaches**:
Vietnam?s emphasis on scalable solutions can
inform Bangladesh?s implementation
strategies.

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3. Gaps and Areas of Improvement

Benchmarking Against OECD Guidelines:

- **Missing Elements**: The policy lacks
detailed mechanisms for continuous
monitoring and evaluation of AI initiatives,
which is essential for adaptive governance.

- **Ethical and Governance Frameworks**:
While ethical guidelines are mentioned,
specific measures for bias mitigation and
data privacy need more clarity and

robustness.

Incorporation of Comparative Insights:

- **Inclusivity and Workforce Development**: The policy should include targeted initiatives for marginalized communities, inspired by successful programs in India and Vietnam.

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4. Recommendations for Policy Improvement

- **Adopting Best Practices**: Implement successful strategies from India and Vietnam, such as establishing AI research hubs and enhancing public-private partnerships.
- **Enhancing Ethical Frameworks**: Strengthen ethical guidelines by integrating comprehensive data privacy measures and bias mitigation strategies based on OECD standards.
- **Fostering International Cooperation**: Develop partnerships with countries leading in AI to share knowledge and best practices.
- **Resource Allocation and Funding Mechanisms**: Optimize funding strategies by exploring innovative financing models observed in higher-income countries, such as

venture capital and public-private collaborations.

- **Scalable and Sustainable Approaches**: Focus on scalable solutions, particularly in agriculture and public services, to maximize impact without overwhelming resources.

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5. Strengths and Innovative Approaches

- **Sector-Specific Focus**: The policy?s emphasis on leveraging AI across key sectors like agriculture and healthcare aligns well with Bangladesh?s socio-economic context, addressing critical national challenges.

- **Public Awareness Initiatives**: The commitment to public education on AI benefits demonstrates a forward-thinking approach to ensuring societal acceptance and understanding of AI technologies.

Summary

The National Artificial Intelligence Policy 2024 for Bangladesh presents a foundational approach to harnessing AI for economic growth and societal benefit. While it outlines ambitious objectives and strategies, there are gaps in ethical frameworks, funding mechanisms, and

implementation strategies. By learning from comparative insights and best practices from similar and higher-income countries, Bangladesh can enhance its policy framework, ensuring that AI technologies are utilized responsibly and effectively for the betterment of its citizens and the nation as a whole.